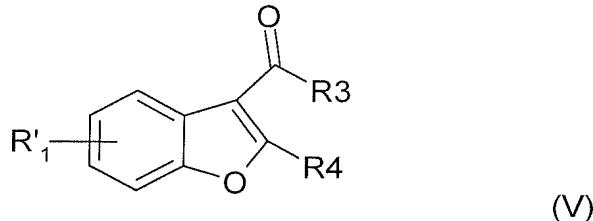


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1 – 15

16.(Original) A compound of formula (V)

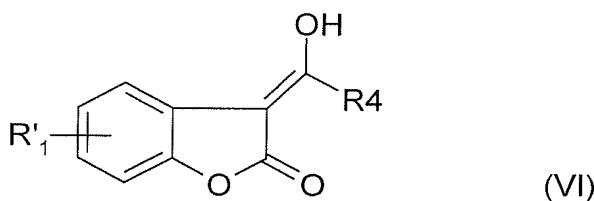


in which R3 represents a hydroxyl radical or represents a halogen atom,  
R4 represents a linear or branched alkyl radical including from 2 to 5  
carbon atoms and R'<sub>1</sub> represents a nitro radical.

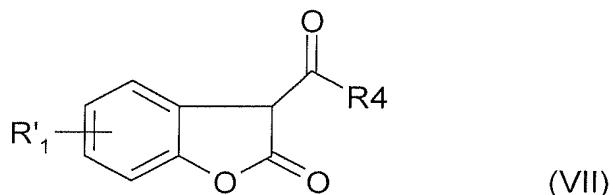
17.(Original) The compound according to Claim 16,

characterized in that R'<sub>1</sub> represents a nitro radical in the 5 position and  
R4 represents an n-butyl radical.

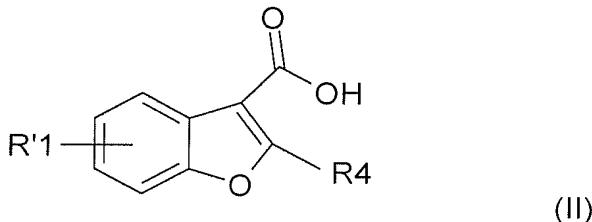
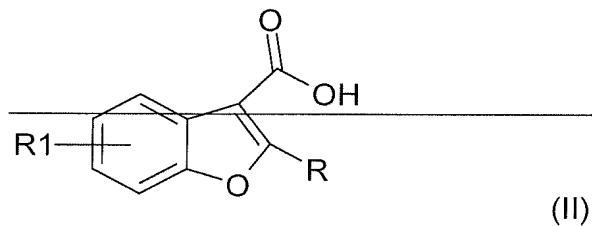
18.(Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a 2-(n-alkyl)-3-carboxybenzofuran of formula (II), characterized in that a 3-(1-hydroxyalkylidene)-3H-benzofuran-2-one of formula (VI):



or its 3-alkanoyl-3H-benzofuran-2-one ketonic tautomeric form of formula (VII):



in which R4 represents a linear or branched alkyl radical including from 2 to 5 carbon atoms and R'1 represents a nitro radical, is treated by heating and by an acid catalyst in concentrated aqueous solution of at least 80% by weight and then the expected product of formula (II)



is isolated.

19.(Original) Process according to Claim 18, characterized in that the treatment by heating of the compound of formula (VI) or of formula (VII) is carried out in a carboxylic acid.

20.(Original) The process of claim 18, wherein the acid catalyst in concentrated aqueous solution is concentrated sulphuric acid at between 80% and 95% by weight.

21.(Canceled)